

Message Text

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62

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191789

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 191789 ACTION COLOMBO 5 OCT

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191789

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 191789 SENT ACTION ADDIS ABABA INFO ASMARA
MOGADISCIO SEPT. 26:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191789

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, UK, US

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON KAGNEW PHASE-DOWN AND DIEGO

GARCIA UPGRADE

REFERENCE: (A) STATE 181336

(B) ADDIS 10868

1. REF (A) INSTRUCTED EMBASSY ADDIS TO NOTIFY
ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT OF DECISION TO WITHDRAW BULK OF
PERSONNEL FROM NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT ASMARA.
FOLLOWING AGREEMENT ON PRESS GUIDANCE BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN,
UK AND US GOVTS, DEPT WILL TRANSMIT LETTERS TO CHAIRMEN
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OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ADVISING THEM THAT FOR TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS KAGNEW OPERATION WILL BE PHASED DOWN. ADDITIONALLY, AS A RESULT OF AN INTENSIVE REVIEW OF ITS WORLD WIDE COMMUNICATIONS DOD IS PROPOSING TO MAKE COMMUNICATIONS IMPROVEMENTS AT ITS STATION IN DIEGO GARCIA. LETTERS WILL STATE THAT WE HAVE OBTAINED AGREEMENT OF BRITISH FOR UPGRADE. LETTERS WILL ALSO OFFER TO BRIEF COMMITTEES MORE FULLY.

2. AT SAME TIME DEPT TRANSMITS ABOVE LETTERS, DEFENSE WILL SEND SIMILAR LETTERS TO CHAIRMEN OF SENATE AND HOUSE ARMED SERVICES AND APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES.

3. FOR ADDIS. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM IEG OF FOREGOING AND SEEK APPROVAL OF FOLLOWING PROPOSED PRESS STATEMENT FOR SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE IN WASHINGTON AND ADDIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OF Q AND A GUIDANCE:

A. "AS A RESULT OF RECENT DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN THE IEG AND USG IT HAS BEEN MUTUALLY AGREED THAT THE U.S. COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT ASMARA, ETHIOPIA WILL BE PHASED DOWN. THIS DECISION FOLLOWS AN EXTENSIVE REVIEW BY THE USG OF ITS WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND IS BASED ON THE TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS INVOLVED. THE IEG HAS AGREED TO PERMIT THE CONTINUED OPERATIONS OF REDUCED COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES THAT WILL INVOLVE ABOUT 100 U.S. PERSONNEL."

B. PROPOSED Q AND A GUIDANCE AS FOLLOWS:

Q. WHEN WILL PHASE DOWN BEGIN?

A. IMMEDIATELY

Q. WHEN WILL PHASE DOWN BE COMPLETED?

A. ABOUT 1 JULY 1974.

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Q. WHAT IMPACT ON FLEET COMMUNICATIONS?

A. NEGLIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE MEANS WILL BE EMPLOYED TO HANDLE FLEET COMMUNICATIONS.

Q. HOW MANY AMERICANS CURRENTLY AT KAGNEW?

A. ABOUT 950, PLUS DEPENDENTS.

Q. DOES THIS MEAN DIMINUTION IN USG INTEREST IN
AND ASSISTANCE FOR ETHIOPIA?

A. NO. THE MUTUALLY AGREED PHASE DOWN HAS BEEN
BROUGHT ABOUT BY BOTH TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS THAT
HAVE LED TO CLOSING OF SCORES OF MILITARY
INSTALLATIONS IN U.S. AND ABROAD. IT IN
NO WAY AFFECTS LONG-STANDING FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND U.S., NOR DOES IT IMPLY
ANY DIMINUTION IN OUR ASSISTANCE TO
ETHIOPIA.

Q. WHAT WILL THE ONE HUNDRED PERSONNEL TO
REMAIN BE DOING?

-. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PERFORM RESIDUAL
COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITY AT A REDUCED
LEVEL.

4. FOR LONDON: YOU SHOULD INFORM FCO OF FOREGOING
AND REQUEST APPROVAL OF FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS
GUIDANCE TO BE USED IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS:

"THE COMMUNICATIONS STATION AT DIEGO GARCIA WILL
BE IMPROVED TO MEET ONGOING COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THE PLANS TO IMPROVE
COMMUNICATIONS AT DIEGO GARCIA WOULD IN NO WAY ALTER THE
MISSION OF THIS COMMUNICATIONS STATION. THE GOVERNMENT
OF THE UK HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND HAS AGREED TO THIS
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PROPOSAL."

5. TO PRECLUDE PREMATURE DISCLOSURE TO PRESS OF DOD'S
PLANS BEFORE CONGRESS HAS BEEN NOTIFIED, ADDRESSES
SHOULD NOT RPT NOT RESPOND TO ANY INQUIRIES ABOUT
KAGNEW AND DIEGO GARCIA AT THIS TIME. YOU WILL BE
INFORMED WHEN CONGRESS HAS BEEN NOTIFIED. RUSH

UNQUOTE. RUSU UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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